

Hunters Point Shipyard Parcel E Landfill Fire Notification Factsheet No. 1

September 8, 2000



The Navy is providing this fact sheet to inform the local community and Federal, State, and Local officials about a recent fire at the Parcel E Landfill on Hunters Point Shipyard. The Navy will be providing additional updates as new information is available. A map of the affected area and points of contact are provided on the second page.

Background:

On August 16, 2000, the Federal Fire Department was notified by base security that there was a brush fire burning on the Parcel E Landfill on Hunters Point Shipyard. The Federal Fire Department responded to the fire and requested the assistance of the San Francisco Fire Department to contain the fire. The surface fire was contained after approximately six hours using only water. The fire fighters reported that the fire appeared to be a normal brush fire with no appearance of chemicals burning. The cause of the fire is still under investigation by the San Francisco Bureau of Fire Investigation.

Follow-up:

After the initial fire was put out, the Federal Fire Department continued to respond to the site due to hot spots continuing to smolder under the ground. The San Francisco fire Department also responded to public reports of smoke coming from the fire area. However, after the second response, the Federal Fire Department asked the San Francisco Fire Department to notify them of any reports of smoke, but that their response would not be needed.

The Federal Fire Department tried once to dig up small pockets that were smoldering using a bulldozer and water to put them out. They continued to respond using shovels and water hoses to open up and put out the remaining smoldering areas. The area that continues to smolder appears to be composed mostly of saw dust with various amounts of debris and small rooted brush. The Fire Fighters have reported that the smoke appears to be that of normal burning wood.

On August 24, 2000, during the daily response to the landfill, a small yellow/green smoke cloud was observed coming from where the fire fighters had shoveled some smoldering material. After putting out that smoldering area, the fire fighters obtained a soil sample from next to where the yellow/green smoke had been observed. That sample has been submitted to

a laboratory for chemical analysis. The Navy expected results by September 11, 2000. The Federal Fire Department responded again on August 26, 2000 and at that time found normal wood type smoke pockets.

On August 28, 2000, the Federal Fire Department tried another tactic to completely extinguish the remaining hot spots. They tried to flood the smoldering areas by opening a 3-inch hose and running it for two 3-hour periods. This worked with limited success. There continue to be small hot spot areas on the site.

On August 30, 2000, the Navy began investigating the effects caused by the fire. Soil samples were obtained from the burn area. These samples were submitted to a laboratory for chemical analysis. Ponded water from the flooded areas was also collected and sent to a laboratory for analysis. These results are expected back by September 11, 2000. A 24-hour air sample was collected from a smoldering smoke area on September 1, 2000 and submitted to a laboratory for chemical analysis. These results are expected back by September 13, 2000. The Navy also inspected the entire area and determined that none of the flooding water ran off the site into the San Francisco Bay.

The Navy has been working with the Federal Fire Department and its environmental contractors to determine the best means of putting out the remaining smoldering areas. The Navy is contacting several landfill fire experts to assist in this effort. The Navy briefed this issue to the environmental regulators at the BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) meeting yesterday. The Navy has also made several notifications to local community members and the City of San Francisco.

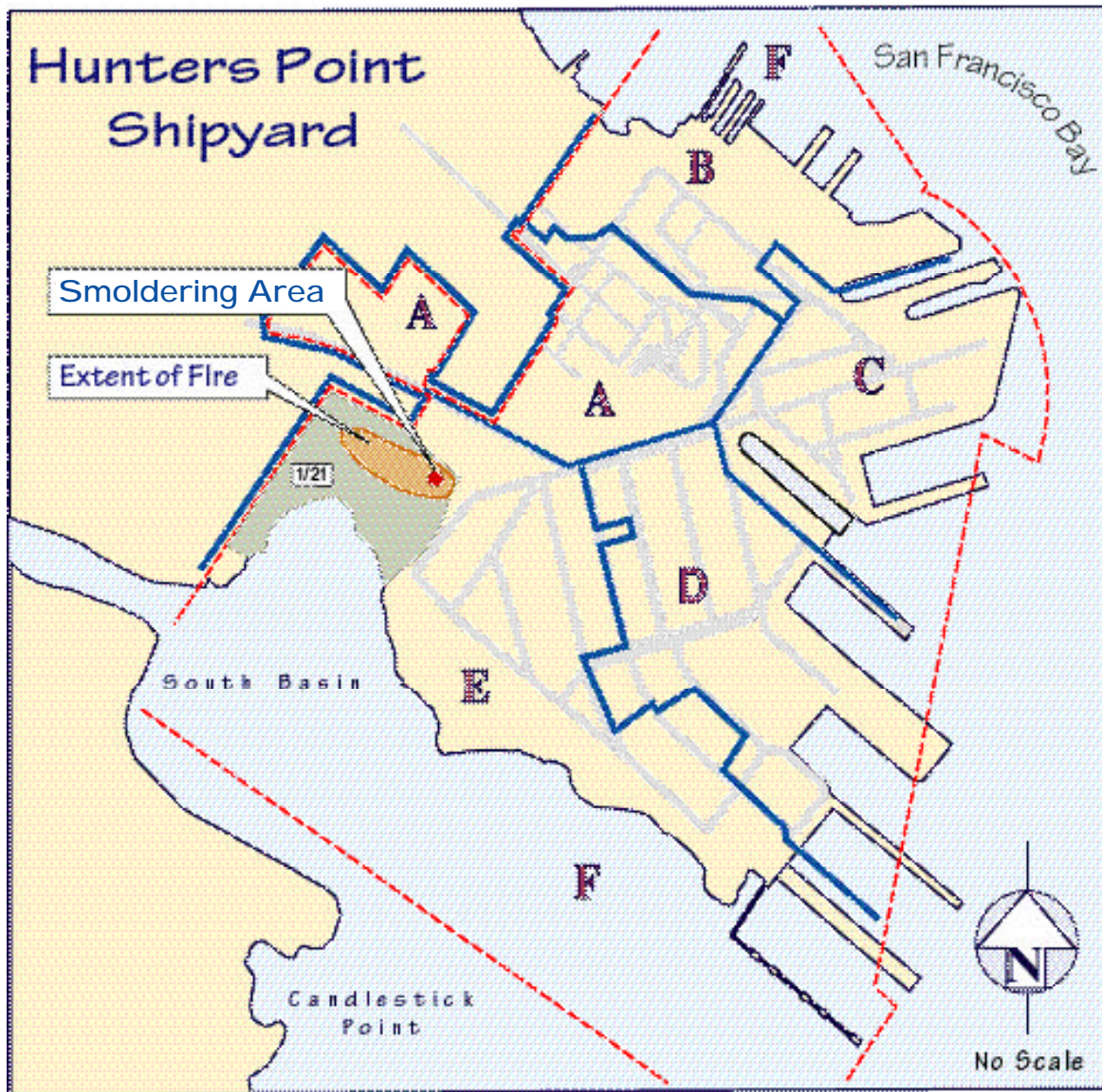
What is next:

The Navy will continue to work with the Federal Fire Department and landfill fire experts to completely put out the remaining smoldering areas. The Navy plans to have a plan completed by September 15, 2000.

In the mean time, the Navy is moving air monitoring stations to a location between the fire and the local community to take daily 24-hour samples of the air coming from the fire area. Sampling will begin tonight. These results and those from the previous

sampling events will be presented in follow-up fact sheets for this site. The Navy is also working on a plan to complete additional groundwater and soil characterization on the landfill to determine the effects the fire has caused to the landfill. The Navy has a person on site 24 hours per day to monitor the air samplers and ensure people stay out of the landfill and smoldering areas.

The Navy will continue to keep the public informed through additional fact sheets and presentations at the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB meets the fourth Thursday of each month starting at 6 p.m. in the Bayview Police Department.



For more information, please contact:

Mr. Richard G. Mach Jr., P.E.
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Phone: (619) 532-0913
Fax: (619) 532-0995
E-mail: machrg@efds.w.navy.mil

Mr. Tom Pinard
Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (650) 244-2707
Fax: (650) 244-3010
e-mail: pinardtc@efawest.navy.mil